

**THE CLAIMS**

1. A flexible connector comprising:

a length of corrugated tubing having a distal end;

5 a polymeric sleeve surrounding the length of corrugating tubing and aligned with the distal end thereof;

a length of mesh tubing having a distal end;

the length of mesh tubing surrounding the length of corrugated tubing and the polymeric sleeve and having its distal end substantially aligned with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing;

10 an integral structure comprising an end piece adapted to secure the flexible connector to an adjacent component and a sleeve for receiving the length of corrugated tubing, the polymeric sleeve, and the length of mesh tubing;

the sleeve being crimped to permanently retain the length of corrugated tubing, the sleeve, and the length of mesh tubing in engagement with the end piece.

2. A method of manufacturing a flexible connector comprising the steps of:

providing a length of corrugated tubing having a distal end;

5 providing a polymeric sleeve;

extending the polymeric sleeve over the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing;

providing a length of mesh tubing having a distal end;

10 extending the length of mesh tubing over the entirety of the length of corrugated tubing and over the polymeric sleeve;

providing a unitary structure comprising an end piece for securing the flexible connector in engagement  
15 with an adjacent component and a sleeve for receiving the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing, the polymeric sleeve, and the distal end of the length of mesh tubing; and

crimping the sleeve into permanent retaining  
20 engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing, the polymeric sleeve, and the distal end of the length of mesh tubing.